

A FIERCE BATTLE

Between Americans and Spaniards Near Santiago.

DETAILS OF THE ENCOUNTER

The Americans Were Largely Outnumbered, but Defeated the Spaniards, Who Retreated in the Direction of Santiago.

Last week we published a short account of the fight between the Spaniards and Americans at Quassina, which is only a few miles from Santiago, where a desperate battle is expected to occur at any time. This week we give the details of the battle, which doubt will be read with interest by all. The battle was fought on Friday, June 24. It did not end in the complete slaughter of Americans in the plan of the Spaniards, for as perfect ambushes as was ever formed in the brain of an apache Indian was prepared and Lieutenant Colonel Roosevelt and his men walked squarely into it. For an hour and a half they held their ground under a perfect storm of bullets from the front and sides, and then Colonel Wood to the right and Lieutenant Colonel Roosevelt to the left led a charge which turned the tide of battle and sent the enemy flying over the hills toward Santiago.

SIXTEEN AMERICANS KILLED.

It is now definitely known that sixteen men on the American side were killed, while sixty were wounded, or are reported to be missing. It is impossible to calculate the Spanish losses, but it is known that they were far heavier than those of the Americans, at least as regards actual loss of life.

Thirty-seven dead Spanish soldiers have been found and buried, while many others are undoubtedly lying in the thick underbrush on the side of the gully and on the slope of the hill where the main body of the enemy was located. The wounded were all removed.

The Spaniards were thoroughly posted as to the route to be taken by the Americans in their movement toward Sevilla was evident, as shown by the careful preparations they had made.

The main body of the Spaniards was posted on a hill, on the heavily wooded slopes of which had been erected two blockhouses flanked by two smaller ones, and between them and on both sides of the road in the thick underbrush was concealed a force of Spaniards that must have been large, judging from the terrific and constant fire they poured in on the Americans.

The fight was opened by the First and Tenth Cavalry, under General Young. A force of Spaniards was known to be in the vicinity of La Quassina, and early in the morning Lieutenant Colonel Roosevelt's men started off up the precipitous bank back of Siboney to attack the Spaniards on their right flank, General Young at the same time taking the road at the foot of the hill.

CUBANS GIVE THE ALARM.

About two and a half miles out from Siboney, some Cubans, breathless and excited, rushed into camp to announce the movement that the Spaniards were but a little way in front and were strongly intrenched.

Quickly the Hotchkiss guns out in front were brought to the rear, while a strong scouting line was thrown out. Then, cautiously and in silence, the troops moved forward until a bend in the road disclosed a hill, where the Spaniards were located.

The guns were again brought to the front and placed in position, while the men crouched down in the road, waiting impatiently to give Roosevelt's men, who were toiling over the little trail along the crests of the ridge, time to get up.

Gen. Young, at 7:30 a. m., gave the command to the men at the Hotchkiss guns to open fire. That command was the signal for a fight that for stubbornness has seldom been equalled. The instant the Hotchkiss guns were fired, from the hillside commanding the road came volley after volley from the Maudsers of the Spaniards.

"Don't shoot until you see something to shoot at," yelled Gen. Young, and the men, with set jaws and burning eyes, obeyed the order. Crawling along the edge of the road and protecting themselves as much as possible from the fearful fire of the Spaniards, the troops, some of them stripped to the waist, watched the base of the hill, and when any part of a Spaniard became visible they fired. Never for an instant did they falter.

One dusky warrior of the Tenth Cavalry, with a ragged wound in his thigh, coolly knelt behind a rock, loading and firing, and when told by one of his comrades that he was wounded, laughed and said: "Oh, that's all right. That's been there for some time."

In the meantime, away off to the left could be heard the crack of Colonel Wood's men, and the regular deep-toned volley firing of the Spaniards.

ROOSEVELT'S OWN STORY.

Over there the American losses were the greatest. Col. Wood's men, with an advance guard well out in front and two Cuban guides before them, but apparently with no flankers, went squarely into the trap set for them by the Spaniards, and only the unfaltering courage of the men in the face of a fire that would make even a veteran quail prevented what might easily have been a disaster.

As it was, Troop L, the advance guard, under the unfortunate Captain Capron, was almost surrounded, and but for the reinforcement hurriedly sent forward from the main body, probably have been killed or wounded.

"There must have been nearly 1,500 Spaniards in front and to the sides of us," said Lieutenant Colonel Roosevelt today when discussing the fight. "They held the ridges with rifle pits and machine guns and had a body of men in ambush in the thick jungle at the side of the road over which we were advancing. Our advance guard struck the men in ambush and drove them out. But they lost Captain Capron, Lieutenant Thomas and about fifteen men killed or wounded."

"The Spanish firing was accurate, so accurate, indeed, that it surprised me, and their firing was fearfully heavy. I want to say that our men, continued Lieutenant Colonel Roosevelt. "Every officer and man did his duty up to the hilt. Not a man

CAMPAIGN MEETING.

From another officer, who took a prominent part in the fighting more details were obtained.

"When the firing began," said he, "Lieutenant Colonel Roosevelt took the right wing with Troops G and K, under Captains Llewellyn and Jenkins, and moved to the support of Captain Capron, who was getting in harm."

"At the same time Colonel Wood and Major Brodie took the left wing and advanced in open order on the Spanish right wing. Major Brodie was wounded before the troops had advanced 100 yards. Colonel Wood then took the right wing and shifted Colonel Roosevelt to the left."

ROOSEVELT'S SPIRITED LEAD.

"In the meantime the fire of the Spaniards had increased in volume; but, notwithstanding this, an order for a general charge was given, and with a yell the men sprang forward."

"Colonel Roosevelt, in front of his men, snatched a rifle and ammunition belt from a wounded soldier, and, cheering and yelling with his men, led the advance."

"For a moment the bullets were singing like a swarm of bees all around them, and every instant some poor fellow went down."

"On the right wing Captain McClintock had his leg broken by a bullet from a machine gun, while four of his men went down. At the same time Captain Luna of Troop F, lost nine of his men. Then the reserves, Troops K and E, were ordered up."

There was no more hesitation. Colonel Wood, with the right wing, charged straight at a blockhouse 800 yards away, and Colonel Roosevelt, on the left, charged at the same time. Up the men went, yelling and never stopping to return the fire of the Spaniards, but keeping on with a grim determination to capture that blockhouse.

"That was the end. When within 500 yards of the coveted point the Spaniards broke and ran, and for the first time we had the pleasure, which the Spaniards had been experiencing all through the engagement, of shooting with the enemy in sight."

SURGEON GENERAL'S HERO.

"In the two hours of fighting during which the volunteers battled against their concealed enemy enough deeds of heroism were done to fill a volume."

"One of the men of Troop E, desperately wounded, was lying squarely between the lines of fire. Surgeon General hurried to his side and, with bullets pelting all around him, calmly dressed the man's wounds, bled him, and soon returned with two men and a litter."

"The wounded man was placed on the litter and brought into our lines."

"Another soldier, of Troop L, concealing himself as best he could behind a tree, gave up his place to a wounded companion, and a moment or two later was himself wounded."

"Surgeon General stood by the side of Captain Capron when the latter was mortally hit. Capron had seen that he was fighting against terrible odds, but he never flinched. 'Give me your gun a minute,' he said, to the Sergeant and kneeling down he deliberately aimed and fired two shots in quick succession. At each a Spaniard was seen to fall. Bell in the meantime had seized a dead comrade's rifle and knelt beside his Captain and fired readily."

"When Captain Capron fell he gave the Sergeant parting messages to his wife and father and bade the Sergeant good-bye in a cheerful voice, and was then borne away dying."

FISH'S LAST GIFT.

"Sergeant Hamilton Fish, Jr., was the first man killed by the Spanish fire. He was near the head of the column as it turned from the wood road into range of the Spanish ambush. He shot one Spaniard who was firing from the cover of a dense patch of underbrush. Then a bullet struck his breast. He sank at the foot of a tree with his back against it. Captain Capron stood over him, shooting, and others rallied around him, covering the wounded man with their bodies. The Spaniards then fired thick with empty shells where Fish lay. He lived twenty minutes. He gave a small lady's hunting-case watch from his belt to a messmate as a last souvenir."

"With the exception of Captain Capron all the Rough Riders killed were buried on the field of action. Their bodies were laid in one long trench, each wrapped in a blanket. Palm leaves lined the trench and were heaped in profusion over the dead heroes."

"Chaplain Brown read the beautiful Episcopal burial service for the dead, and as he knelt in prayer every troop, with bared head, knelt around the trench. When the chaplain announced the hymn, 'Nearer, My God, to Thee,' the deep bass voices of the men gave a most impressive rendering of the music. The dead Rough Riders rest right on the summit of the hill where they fell. The site is most beautiful. A growth of rich, luxuriant grass and flowers covers the slopes, and from the top a far reaching view is had over the tropical forest."

"Chaplain Brown has marked each grave and had complete records for the benefit of friends of the dead soldiers."

"Captain Capron's body was brought into Jurgata but it was deemed inadvisable to send the remains north this season, and the internment took place on a hillside near the seashore, back of the provisional hospital."

"After a brief service a parting volley was fired over the grave of the dead Captain and single musket 'taps' as beyond Santiago."

A Strange Story.

Dean Payne, a baker, reports that his wife and only child, a little boy 5 or 6 years old, disappeared from his home in Williamson on last Thursday night and since that time he has heard nothing of their whereabouts. Mr. Payne says he was in the yard of his house alone until late that night and upon returning to his room to retire he discovered that his wife and were missing. He proceeded at once to look about the premises for them, but failed to find them. Everything was in perfect order in the room. The Sunday apparel of the wife and child was not taken and nothing whatever was missing except an album and a Bible. It is evident that she had made no preparation for her departure. The little boy was dressed in his every day clothes and barefooted. Mr. Payne thinks that she has drowned herself and boy in Saluda river.

The Terror Disabed.

"Capt. Sigbee reports that on Wednesday afternoon, while off San Juan, he was attacked by a Spanish torpedo boat destroyer Terror. The Terror made a dash which was awaited by the St. Paul. The St. Paul hit the Terror three times, killing one officer and two men and wounding several others. The Terror dropped back and covered the shore with its battery of guns. The Terror was towed into the harbor in a sinking condition, where she is being repaired. Later a cruiser and a gunboat started out but remained under protection of the forts."

CAMPAIGN MEETING.

The Candidates Plead With the Dear People.

CHARGES AN ALLEGED DEAL.

The Governor Defends Himself Against Certain Charges. A Lot of Talk About Buying Newspapers. Senator Connor Takes a Hand.

There was some spice at the Summer campaign on Tuesday last week. After a good many candidates had spoken, Gov. Ellerbe took the stand and was received with applause. Called to the office by the people of both factions, he did not ask re-election if the infamous charges against him were proven. He would not bow to the politicians if he never held office. His only ambition had been to give himself service. No manly man would advance charges that he could not sustain. Tillman had made wholesale charges against his administration, but he would not prove them. Tillman had gone to Clemson with a minority report in his pocket, but they had been taken from him and he signed a report saying the college was doing a great work. (Laughter.) Why didn't he have the courage of his convictions? He was soured by defeat in politics, and his judgment has become prejudiced. It was unfortunate that he should come at this time, when the people were getting together, to try and tear down everything. I did not inaugurate the dispensary, though I wish I had that honor. Ben Tillman did it, and does he (George Tillman) say that? He did it to corrupt the morals of the people? The governor was loudly applauded as he concluded.

Col. George Tillman was cheered as he began. Ellerbe's charge that he was trying to pull down Clemson was indignantly false and Ellerbe knew it. But why should Clemson spend \$100,000 when the mother college spends only \$20,000. He objected to the "sumner" of the meeting. Time would show that Clemson and Winthrop were failures as far as what they were intended to do. He objected to the "bug cabinet" and other needless buildings. One reason for the deficit last year was the enormous expenditure at Clemson.

Responding to Governor Ellerbe's invitation to prove his charges concerning the fertilizer tax, he read a letter from Representative L. S. Connor. Oronough said that as Governor Ellerbe had said that Col. Tillman could prove that certain parties got all the fertilizer they wanted without paying the tax he would withdraw from the race. He would state as follows:

"In 1896 I sent 100 old tags that had been used to the manufacturer, had 100 sacks of bone shipped me and my invoice would show that I got credit for the 100 old tags. I could have sent the same old tags back and had another carload sent in the same way. On January 24, 1898, I witnessed a carload of fertilizer being unloaded and delivered to consumers without a single tag. I called a witness and reported it next day to three members of the board of trustees of Clemson and to one of the inspectors, who told me he had witnessed a similar delivery and had reported it to Clemson. * * * A year or two ago a certain dealer in this county was reported time and time again for delivering goods without tax tags until it had become so public that a member of the board of control compromised this by one of the trustees and by one of the board informed me that a lot of cotton meal was seized in Marlboro last year and that they compromised for \$250. Governor Ellerbe is a member of the board of trustees and of the fertilizer board of control. The trustees report show that fertilizers sampled were below the guarantee from 15 to 26 per cent, yet we are to hear of no prosecution. You have a good case, you can make it warm for the so-called governor."

Col. Tillman exhibited a table showing that \$378,045 of this tax has gone to Clemson, and out of the pockets of farmers, and stated that when a bill providing for cancellation of taxes was introduced in the senate. Messrs. Norris, Stachhouse and Martin, members of the Clemson board, voted against it.

THE CLARENDON MEETING.

The meeting at Manning on Wednesday, like the one the day before at Sumter, was quite spicy. Colonel Watson opened his remarks by some allusions to Editor Archer of the Times. Archer said Gantt had tried to get \$250 from him last spring in order to buy out Stanyarne Wilson's interest in the Piedmont Headlight, as Wilson had tampered with the voting returns. Later, one of Gantt's special friends came to him, telling him that he needed a newspaper to advance his candidacy, and that he could buy Gantt's for \$1,500. Archer said he would do it. Neal and Gantt had conferences, and the result was that Neal and Ellerbe and others put up \$1,500 and Gantt's interest in the paper and kept Gantt to edit it for them. "And," said Mr. Archer, "if you keep your eyes open you may soon see something else about this in the paper."

If Ellerbe chose to give Appleton some of his money to edit his paper for him, it was all right, but it was strange that he should invest his money in Spartansburg, where there were some five thousand votes. Of course Ellerbe was sharp enough to get Neal to make all the promises and agreements. There were approached by Neal and Gantt, and they were invited to take along in the Headlight, in the hope of making a combination to carry Spartansburg County.

Replying to Archer Governor Ellerbe said he had \$275 invested in newspapers in South Carolina. His money was his own, and he used it as he pleased, but he had no money in the Manning paper. Replying to Mr. Connor's letter concerning the rousing of privilege taxes published above he said this was under the administration of his predecessor. The compromise with a dealer in Marlboro was made at the suggestion of the assistant attorney general, and expense was saved thereby. The managers who had furnished fertilizers but whose analysis are now being prosecuted.

THE BERKELEY MEETING.

The Berkeley meeting was held on Thursday. About four hundred people were present.

Mr. Archer brought up his opponents in panoramic review, accompanying it with hot shot for some of them and with praise for others. He declared that Governor Ellerbe stood before the people as persecuted innocence, and that his speech was a defense of what a great many of the people believe he has done at the suggestion of other men.

DEBATES THE CHARGE

Editor Larry Gantt Replies to Senator Archer.

AN INDIGNANT REFUTATION.

Allegation of the Gubernatorial Candidate Denounced as Wilfully False from Beginning to End. Mr. Gantt's Pen is Not Purchasable.

Spartansburg, S. C., June 30, 1898.

At the Manning campaign meeting I see the following report of a speech delivered by State Senator Archer, candidate for Governor:

"Gubernatorial candidate Archer declared that Governor Ellerbe, Neal and others had given Editor Gantt \$1,500 to control the Headlight. Mr. Gantt had bought the Headlight, and was employing him as editor to control Spartansburg County. Gantt had sought him first, he said, intimating that he was for sale, but he refused to buy. Neal, he declared, was acting as Ellerbe's political agent, working his campaign all over the State."

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Last November, long before the State campaign started my partner, Mr. T. B. Thackston, and myself decided to organize a stock company in order to buy new machinery and start a daily paper, also to add a job printing department to our business. We did not have sufficient capital of our own to do this, and therefore secured a charter, through the Secretary of State, for The Piedmont Headlight Publishing Company, and then advertised for subscription. We made no secret of this, for the back files of our paper will show that we announced the subscription books were open to all who desired to buy stock. Every subscriber knows this to be true. We have not as yet placed \$1,500 worth of stock, and as the charter calls for ten thousand dollars, it will be readily seen that a very small number of the stockholders owned by Mr. Thackston and myself. Our friend Judge W. S. Thomson negotiated the sale of our stock, and as he will bear me out, I distinctly told him to say to those contemplating a purchase, that so long as I remained at the helm of the paper its editorial policy would remain unchanged, and I should insist on a majority of the stock being sold to citizens of Spartansburg County. We have still more than three thousand dollars worth of stock to dispose of, which any one can purchase by applying to Judge Thomson or at this office.

There has been no request made that this paper support Governor Ellerbe or fight Senator Archer or any one else. Among the parties who bought stock in the Headlight are Messrs. T. R. Trimmer, L. P. Epton, J. B. Liles, W. L. Epps and other citizens of Spartansburg County. So any one can see at a glance the falsity of Senator Archer's statement. In organizing our stock company, it was simply a business transaction, the same as should we sell an interest in a farm, a horse or any other species of property. We had nothing to conceal from the public, and have concealed nothing. The whole transaction was open and above board; the call for stock subscriptions was published week after week in our paper, and our books open to whoever would buy. I am not now, never have been, or ever intend to be, in the political employ of Messrs. Neal, Ellerbe or any one else, and I have no interest in the Headlight. The Headlight is a deliberate and slanderous falsehood. I respect the cloth of a minister of the Gospel, but when I see a man stealing the livery of heaven to advance his own ambition and selfish interest, and circulating slanders on a fellow-countryman, who has befriended him when he most needed assistance, I feel that the author of the Headlight has forfeited all regard by degrading his high calling.

The declared policy of the Headlight in the present campaign—and our files will show that we have carried out this promise to the letter—is this: To give full reports of the speeches made, not to advocate the cause of any of the candidates, and discuss measures and not men. All the candidates for Governor, except Senator Archer, have treated me with the greatest courtesy, and it is my desire to give them all a fair showing, so far as my influence goes. I have come nearer endorsing Uncle George Tillman than any of the candidates, for several planks in his platform exactly coincide with the views expressed in this paper more than a year ago. But the trouble with Senator Archer is that did when he was a candidate for State Senator, after being twice turned down by his own people, who knew him best. Here is where the shoe pinches.

I can scarcely believe that Senator Archer stated that he ever sought help with a view to buying out the influence of Editor Gantt. He has never sought help to him, for any such statement would be the blackest lie that ever fell from the lips of man. The only thing that Senator Archer could do by any means possibly torture into such an avowal is this: The Headlight leased the outfit of the People's Journal Publishing Company, but we now own the paper. The stock in this only use its press. The State has now the best investments I know of, paying 12 per cent, besides laying aside a small sinking fund. Mr. Archer said he thought he would buy the stock, but he wrote me in a few days that he did not have the money to spare. This ended the matter. The sale of that stock to Senator Archer would not have profited either myself or The Headlight office one nickel, for the entire proceeds would have been at once turned over to the owners of the stock. We were simply trying to oblige those friends who were anxious to buy, and knew it was a much better investment than some in which Senator Archer had placed money about that time.

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DEBATES THE CHARGE

Editor Larry Gantt Replies to Senator Archer.

AN INDIGNANT REFUTATION.

Allegation of the Gubernatorial Candidate Denounced as Wilfully False from Beginning to End. Mr. Gantt's Pen is Not Purchasable.

Spartansburg, S. C., June 30, 1898.

At the Manning campaign meeting I see the following report of a speech delivered by State Senator Archer, candidate for Governor:

"Gubernatorial candidate Archer declared that Governor Ellerbe, Neal and others had given Editor Gantt \$1,500 to control the Headlight. Mr. Gantt had bought the Headlight, and was employing him as editor to control Spartansburg County. Gantt had sought him first, he said, intimating that he was for sale, but he refused to buy. Neal, he declared, was acting as Ellerbe's political agent, working his campaign all over the State."

I denounce the above as wilfully false from beginning to end, and there is not one scintilla of truth in what Senator Archer says. I have not sold my interest in The Piedmont Headlight to Messrs. Ellerbe, Neal or any one else, and neither have I been urged by these gentlemen to edit the paper.

Last November, long before the State campaign started my partner, Mr. T. B. Thackston, and myself decided to organize a stock company in order to buy new machinery and start a daily paper, also to add a job printing department to our business. We did not have sufficient capital of our own to do this, and therefore secured a charter, through the Secretary of State, for The Piedmont Headlight Publishing Company, and then advertised for subscription. We made no secret of this, for the back files of our paper will show that we announced the subscription books were open to all who desired to buy stock. Every subscriber knows this to be true. We have not as yet placed \$1,500 worth of stock, and as the charter calls for ten thousand dollars, it will be readily seen that a very small number of the stockholders owned by Mr. Thackston and myself. Our friend Judge W. S. Thomson negotiated the sale of our stock, and as he will bear me out, I distinctly told him to say to those contemplating a purchase, that so long as I remained at the helm of the paper its editorial policy would remain unchanged, and I should insist on a majority of the stock being sold to citizens of Spartansburg County. We have still more than three thousand dollars worth of stock to dispose of, which any one can purchase by applying to Judge Thomson or at this office.

There has been no request made that this paper support Governor Ellerbe or fight Senator Archer or any one else. Among the parties who bought stock in the Headlight are Messrs. T. R. Trimmer, L. P. Epton, J. B. Liles, W. L. Epps and other citizens of Spartansburg County. So any one can see at a glance the falsity of Senator Archer's statement. In organizing our stock company, it was simply a business transaction, the same as should we sell an interest in a farm, a horse or any other species of property. We had nothing to conceal from the public, and have concealed nothing. The whole transaction was open and above board; the call for stock subscriptions was published week after week in our paper, and our books open to whoever would buy. I am not now, never have been, or ever intend to be, in the political employ of Messrs. Neal, Ellerbe or any one else, and I have no interest in the Headlight. The Headlight is a deliberate and slanderous falsehood. I respect the cloth of a minister of the Gospel, but when I see a man stealing the livery of heaven to advance his own ambition and selfish interest, and circulating slanders on a fellow-countryman, who has befriended him when he most needed assistance, I feel that the author of the Headlight has forfeited all regard by degrading his high calling.

The declared policy of the Headlight in the present campaign—and our files will show that we have carried out this promise to the letter—is this: To give full reports of the speeches made, not to advocate the cause of any of the candidates, and discuss measures and not men. All the candidates for Governor, except Senator Archer, have treated me with the greatest courtesy, and it is my desire to give them all a fair showing, so far as my influence goes. I have come nearer endorsing Uncle George Tillman than any of the candidates, for several planks in his platform exactly coincide with the views expressed in this paper more than a year ago. But the trouble with Senator Archer is that did when he was a candidate for State Senator, after being twice turned down by his own people, who knew him best. Here is where the shoe pinches.